

MINUTES
Middle Republican Natural Resources District
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 7:30 PM
Curtis, Nebraska

Board Members Present: Joe Anderjaska, Rick McConville, John Palic, Daniel Nelsen, Dan Estermann, Benjie Loomis, Jay Schilling, Shane Rippen, Rick Spencer, Tracy Zink, Jolene Messinger, Brian Schafer

Board Members Absent: Brad Randel

NRD Staff: Jack Russell, Alex Boyce, Andrew Boyce, Sylvia Johnson, Mary Tidyman and Stacie Owens

NRCS Staff: Jason Kennedy

Others: Kevin Fornoff, William M. Barger

Information Mailed to Directors:

Agenda	Minutes
Financial Report	Legal Billing Summary
Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual	Civil Rights Handout
Resolutions MR-2019-1 & 2	Surface Water Report

Information Distributed at Meeting:

Ltr to Senator Hughes, 3-12-19 Cost Share Summary

Information E-mailed

ZW Weekly (2/22/19, 3/4/19, 3/8/19)

NARD Legislative Update (2/22/19, 3/4/19, 3/8/19)

REGULAR MEETING

1. The regular monthly board meeting was called to order by Chairman McConville at 7:30 pm.
 - a. Verify Quorum.
 - b. Excused Absences.

♦ Schafer moved to approve the absence of Randel. Seconded by Loomis.
Ayes - 10 Nays – Anderjaska, Schilling Motion Carried

2. The agenda and roster were circulated to those present.
 - a. Items added to the Agenda since mailing: None.

3. Notice of the regular monthly meeting was published in the **North Platte Telegraph** and the **McCook Daily Gazette** and was posted at the **MRNRD Office** and on the District website at **www.mrnrd.org**. As a courtesy it was also provided to local radio stations. Guests should also note the location of a current copy of the statutes dealing with public meetings and the booklet with the information provided to directors.

4. The Minutes for the February Regular Board Meeting were mailed to Directors.

- ◆ Schilling moved to approve the minutes of the February Regular Board Meeting. Seconded by Zink.
Ayes - 11 Nays – 0 Abstain - Schafer Motion Carried

5. CONSIDER VARIANCE REQUEST

None.

6. FINANCIAL ACTIONS

A. The February Financial Report was presented by Russell. The taxes received were \$178,507.58.

- ◆ Schilling moved to approve the February Financial Report. Seconded by Nelsen.
Ayes - 12 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

A copy of this report is filed with the Minutes.

7. OPEN FORUM

Kevin Fornoff, Hayes Center. Meeting acoustics sound good and building looks very nice.

8. REPORTS – AGENCIES, ASSOCIATIONS, OTHERS

A. NRCS

1. District Conservation Report – Jason Kennedy reported that the farm bill is still delayed so projects will be delayed most likely. Will be attending a 2018 Farm Bill Program Meeting tomorrow in Kearney. Would like to make a presentation to the Programs and Personnel Committee or to the Board before updating the memorandum regarding staffing discussions they have had.

B. NARD

1. Report – Rippen stated they had a meeting yesterday in Lincoln but he was unable to attend. The final budget will be approved at the June board meeting and he has a copy should anyone wish to review it. The Board discussed issues relating to the way the association currently deals with their lobbyist.

C. NNRC

- 1. Report.
None.

D. OUTREACH

1. Report – Johnson stated that the high school scholarship applications are being advertised. She has also started advertising for the ACE Camp and asked for guidance from the Board as far as the number that should be accepted and should we have them do an essay. Discussion held. We will see how many applicants we have this year and decide how to handle it based on that. They did encourage having the kids do an essay to submit along with the application. The plan will be to start moving into the new building on Monday the 18th. Morton still has a few things to finish up but nothing major. Discussion held on when to have an open house. It was decided to plan on June 11th prior to the Regular Board Meeting.

E. LEGISLATION

Johnson reported on the current status of the Bills. Groene’s bill will be presented tomorrow. Russell and Johnson will watch it via internet. Russell has submitted written testimony.

F. N-CORPE

1. Status Report – Loomis reported that there was an advertisement for a summer intern. They will plan on using the intern instead of hiring additional summer help. 90% of the property will be rented out for grazing. They will be doing some seeding. Part done by themselves and part will be hired. Still looking at land trades. Will have 1-1/2 of fence to get put in this year. Schilling expressed concerns about N-CORPE testifying on legislation and feels that each NRD should do their own testimony. There was general agreement on this issue. 24 of the 30 wells reside under Dawson Public Power. Working on putting controls on so that the wells can remotely be shut off which will get us a better rate with the power company.

G. OTHERS

None.

9. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

A. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

1. REPORTS

(a) SURFACE WATER.

Bureau’s report included.

(b) PERMANENT TRANSFER & VARIANCE REPORT.

None.

2. RULES AND REGULATIONS.

None.

3. IMP – Alternatives.

Russell stated they talked about options at the ground water committee meeting. Schilling was appointed as spokesman for the committee and he explained that Russell, Alex Boyce and Sylvia spoke to DNR about some methods but so far DNR has not been very receptive about the new meter idea. Discussion held.

- ◆ Schafer moved to approve moving forward with what DNR has put together for different payments on permanent buyout of acres within certain areas. Seconded by Palic.

Ayes - 12 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

They also stated they will be requesting all credits for management actions taken within the district will remain in that district.

B. GROUND WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA

None.

C. OTHER GROUND WATER ACTIVITY

None.

10. PROGRAMS

A. COST-SHARE FUNDS – LCP/NSWCP.

1. Cost share report reviewed.

B. WATERSHEDS.

None.

C. CHEMIGATION.

None.

D. METERS – Grant Resolutions.

Resolutions MR-2019-1 and 2 were discussed and reviewed.

◆ Anderjaska moved to approve Resolutions MR-2019-1 and 2 as presented.
Seconded by Loomis.

Ayes - 12 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

Discussion held regarding using \$300,000 left over in the budget for the installation of another 100 meters, on top of the 50 already voted upon last month. Encouraged the Board to think about it and we take action on it next month.

E. TREE PLANTING.

Weed barrier machine should be here around the end of the month.

F. LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL APPLICATIONS.

None.

11. GENERAL OPERATIONS.

A. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

(1) Personnel & Programs - Anderjaska.

Russell requested date to set up a meeting. Discussion held. Decided on Friday, March 15th at 10:30 am here in Curtis at the NRD office.

(2) Ground Water.

Schilling went over what was discussed during the ground water committee which included DNR wanting us to use water resource cash funds for permanent buyouts which we have had a couple requests and DNR has already set price standards based on the Jenkins map as far as rates. There were 3 variances submitted to the office, 2 of which qualified under the criteria set by the board and 1 was denied. The committee agreed with the staff recommendation. We will be developing a report of any and all variances, accepted or denied, to provide to the Board in the future.

B. SALES AND RENTAL EQUIPMENT.

None.

12. LEGAL MATTERS

A. Compact Issues.
None.

B. Other. Russell has Lindstrom working on providing a presentation on board responsibilities which we will plan on doing an hour prior to the April regular board meeting.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Personnel.

◆ Schilling moved to enter into executive session to discuss personnel and legal matters with the Board, Manager and Staff. Seconded by Schafer.

Ayes - 12 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

Chairman McConville restated, for the record, the limitation of the subject matter of the closed session.

Entered at 9:28 pm.

◆ Palic moved to exit the executive session. Seconded by Messinger.

Ayes - Nays – Motion Carried

Exited at 10:17 pm.

The Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 7:30 pm at the Middle Republican NRD Office in Curtis, Nebraska.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 pm.

Stacie M. Owens, Board Secretary